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GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE. BULLETIN NO. 25 OF 1957.

QUEENSLAND SAWMILL STATISTICS - MARCH QUARTER, 1957.

This bulletin has been compiled, in co-operation with the Sub-Department of Forestry, from returns lodged by the proprietors of sawmills licensed throughout the State. Some returns had not been received when these statistics were compiled, but estimates were included for them. The figures for the last three quarters are therefore subject to revision when final figures for 1956-57 are completed.

Log Consumption (see Tables 1 and 3).

In the March quarter of 1957 mills used logs measuring 119,039,000 super. feet, which was 15,698,000 super. feet above the usage in the corresponding quarter of 1956, the normal seasonal decline in the March quarter being smaller than usual. The medium-sized mills (capacities of from 5,000 to 15,000 super. feet) recorded a total cut nearly equal to the combined totals of all other sawmills. Mills producing plywood and veneers continued the high level of production which has been in evidence since September quarter of 1954.

Mills in Operation (see Table 2).

The total of 730 mills operating in the March quarter of 1957 was 2 more than in the December quarter of 1956, and 3 more than in March quarter, 1956. In the northern divisions of Townsville and Cairns, 113 mills operated with an average cut of 214,800 super. feet per mill, while in the rest of the State 617 mills averaged 153,600 super. feet per mill. The 215 mills with daily capacities of from 5,000 to 15,000 super. feet were the largest consumers of logs with a total of 54.3m. super. feet. The 443 mills with daily capacities of under 5,000 super. feet used 32.7m. super. feet, while the 33 large mills with capacities of more than 15,000 super. feet used 21.9m. super. feet, and plywood and veneer mills used 10.1m. super. feet.

Species of Timber (see Tables 1 and 3).

March quarter, 1957, was drier than usual, particularly in southern and central districts, with the result that logging conditions were much easier and there were large increases compared with March quarter, 1956, in the cuts of all species of locally grown timber except kauri pine and miscellaneous timber. Of the 119,039,000 super. feet of log timber used, hardwoods of all kinds accounted for 63,825,000 super. feet - over half of the native logs used. Hoop and bunya pine amounted to 11,977,000 super. feet, cypress pine to 13,221,000 super. feet, and cabinet woods to 8,333,000 super. feet. The cut of plantation thinnings was 5,241,000 super. feet, while miscellaneous species of log timber measuring 12,448,000 super. feet were also used. A total of 3,237,000 super. feet of imported timber was used, mostly by plywood and veneer mills.

Logs Used in Statistical Divisions (see Table 4).

Consumption of log timber was highest in Moreton Division with 25.8m. super. feet, followed by Maryborough with 23.0m. super. feet and Cairns with 22.0m. super. feet. Downs Division cut 17.2m. super. feet, and the metropolitan area 13.4m. super. feet. The remainder of the State, principally Rockhampton, Mackay, and Roma Divisions, accounted for 17.6m. super. feet. Although only a small proportion of the State's total usage, the consumption in these three latter divisions has almost doubled during the last six years.

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BRISBANE.

30th July, 1957.

Table 1 - Logs Used - Species.

Species.	Quarter Ended -				
	31st March, 1956.	30th June, 1956.	30th Sept., 1956.s	31st Dec., 1956.s	31st March, 1957.s
Locally Grown -	Super. Feet.	Super. Feet.	Super. Feet.	Super. Feet.	Super. Feet.
Hoop and Bunya Pine	8,427,337	8,030,319	9,459,762	11,813,698	11,976,744
Kauri Pine	1,288,761	1,039,053	1,131,640	1,176,121	757,227
Plantation Thinnings	4,556,562	5,167,132	4,609,147	6,085,232	5,241,199
Cypress Pine ..	8,760,848	10,428,875	11,703,517	13,529,735	13,221,173
Hardwoods	55,309,104	65,541,905	72,949,773	62,692,266	63,825,025
Cabinet Woods ..	7,636,875	8,706,521	9,378,580	9,271,554	8,332,860
Miscellaneous ..	13,388,406	13,951,864	15,366,738	12,868,464	12,448,181
Imported	3,972,743	4,345,234	4,347,855	3,407,921	3,236,419
Total	103,340,636	117,210,903	128,947,012	120,844,991	119,038,828

s Subject to revision.

Table 2 - Mills Operating, March Quarter, 1957 - Statistical Divisions and Capacity Groups.

Statistical Division.	Capacity per Day.			Plywood and Veneer Mills, &c.	Total.
	Under 5,000 Super. Feet.	5,000 to 15,000 Super. Feet.	Over 15,000 Super. Feet.		
Metropolitan	34	20	4	11	69
Moreton[a]	128	48	6	2	184
Maryborough	81	44	8	2	135
Downs	69	37	3	-	109
Roma	19	6	-	-	25
South-Western ..	1	-	-	-	1
Total South Q'land	332	155	21	15	523
Rockhampton	48	11	1	-	60
Central-Western ..	5	3	-	-	8
Far-Western	-	-	-	-	-
Total Central Q'land	53	14	1	-	68
Mackay	15	7	-	-	22
Townsville	4	2	1	2	9
Cairns	38	34	10	22	104
Peninsula	-	1	-	-	1
North-Western ..	1	2	-	-	3
Total North Q'land	58	46	11	24	139
Total Queensland	443	215	33	39	730

a Excluding Metropolitan.

Table 3 - Logs Used, March Quarter, 1957 - Species and Capacity Groups.

Species.	Capacity per Day.			Plywood and Veneer Mills, &c.	Total.
	Under 5,000 Sup. Ft.	5,000 to 15,000 Sup. Ft.	Over 15,000 Sup. Ft.		
	1,000 Sup. Ft.	1,000 Sup. Ft.	1,000 Sup. Ft.	1,000 Sup. Ft.	1,000 Sup. Ft.
Locally Grown -					
Pine - Hoop and Bunya ..	605	2,998	6,034	2,340	11,977
Kauri	40	207	47	463	757
Plantation Thinnings	1,358	2,768	1,061	54	5,241
Cypress	7,281	5,940	-	-	13,221
Hardwoods	20,940	34,251	8,595	39	63,825
Cabinet Woods	737	2,778	2,754	2,064	8,333
Miscellaneous	1,662	5,292	3,125	2,369	12,448
Imported	76	108	321	2,732	3,237
Total	32,699	54,342	21,937	10,061	119,039

Table 4 - Logs Used, March Quarter, 1957 - Statistical Divisions and Species.

Statistical Division.	Locally Grown.							Imported.	Total.
	Hoop and Bunya Pine.	Kauri Pine.	Plantation Thinnings.	Cypress Pine.	Hardwoods.	Cabinet Woods.	Miscellaneous.		
	1,000 Sup. Ft.	1,000 Sup.Ft.	1,000 Sup.Ft.	1,000 Sup.Ft.	1,000 Sup.Ft.	1,000 Sup.Ft.	1,000 Sup. Ft.	1,000 Sup.Ft.	1,000 Sup.Ft.
Metropolitan ..	4,477	-	-	-	5,870	165	227	2,684	13,423
Moreton[a] ..	2,471	-	1,729	49	20,109	108	815	478	25,759
Maryborough ..	4,320	7	2,281	106	16,206	46	24	-	22,990
Downs	414	-	803	9,110	6,185	-	694	-	17,206
Roma	-	-	-	3,217	25	-	-	-	3,242
South-Western ..	-	-	-	150	-	-	-	-	150
Total S. Q'land	11,682	7	4,813	12,632	48,395	319	1,760	3,162	82,770
Rockhampton ..	204	-	428	582	4,732	1	19	-	5,966
Central-Western	-	-	-	7	1,288	-	-	-	1,295
Far-Western ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total C. Q'land	204	-	428	589	6,020	1	19	-	7,261
Mackay	91	-	-	-	2,494	1	972	-	3,558
Townsville ..	-	27	-	-	1,315	721	166	-	2,229
Cairns	-	723	-	-	4,799	7,282	9,235	-	22,039
Peninsula ..	-	-	-	-	26	9	296	-	331
North-Western ..	-	-	-	-	776	-	-	75	851
Total N. Q'land	91	750	-	-	9,410	8,013	10,669	75	29,008
Total Q'land	11,977	757	5,241	13,221	63,825	8,333	12,448	3,237	119,039

a Excluding Metropolitan.